



## THE PHYSICIAN'S *Bookshelf*

**FLUID BALANCE—A Clinical Manual.** Carl A. Moyer, M.D., Professor of Surgery, Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis. The Year Book Publishers, Inc., Chicago, 1952. 191 pages, \$3.75.

This is a pocket-sized volume of 191 pages which can be readily used as a reference book on fluid and electrolyte therapy or studied in detail if one wishes a mastery of some of the more complex factors at play in fluid exchange. It is written clearly and concisely, and correlates well the fundamental physiological knowledge with the practical application of this knowledge to the care of patients at the bedside. Among the several recent books on this subject this one appeals to the reviewer as the most serviceable and comprehensible to the clinician. The possible disadvantage to the manual is the orientation essentially in a surgical direction, but the fundamentals are presented in sufficient detail that principles of therapy and understanding can readily be applied to medical problems in fluid management as well. The book will also serve to crystallize and review for the physician many of the recent concepts which have been the subject of individual papers on water, sodium, potassium, and electrolyte therapy. There is no hesitation in recommending this book if one wishes to enrich his understanding of fluid balance from fundamental facts to practical management of difficult therapeutic problems.

\* \* \*

**DISORDERS OF THE HEART AND CIRCULATION.** Edited by Robert L. Levy, M.D., Professor of Clinical Medicine, College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University. Thomas Nelson & Sons, New York, 1951. 944 pages, \$12.00.

This group of monographs on cardiovascular disease was originally prepared for the Nelson Loose-Leaf Medicine, and is now presented as a separate volume. The editor offers it "to those with a special interest in cardiovascular disease," and it is to this group of physicians that the book will be of greatest interest and value.

As might be anticipated, some repetition is encountered in the various sections because of the monographic nature of each chapter, but this does not seriously detract from the value of the book as a reference text. The sections on congenital heart disease are unusually detailed and that portion prepared by Dr. Maude Abbott is of particular historical interest. The other sections of the book are uniformly excellent and reflect the ability of the group of authors selected by the editor.

This volume should not be considered a text book for medical students and practitioners, but primarily for those who wish more detailed information than is usually available in the majority of texts on the subject. For this type of reader, the book can be highly recommended.

Illustrations are in the main clearly reproduced, but the section on electrocardiography could be greatly improved by better reproduction of illustrative tracings.

**CASE HISTORIES IN PSYCHOSOMATIC MEDICINE.** The Staff of the Psychiatric Service, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston. Edited by Henry H. W. Miles, M.D., Stanley Cobb, M.D., and Harley C. Shands, M.D. W. W. Norton & Company, Inc., New York, 1952. 306 pages, \$4.50.

This is a collection of 21 case presentations, some of them previously published, from the Psychiatric Service of the Massachusetts General Hospital. The stated aim in the selection of cases "has been to bring out certain aspects of psychosomatic medicine which may be instructive and useful to students, general practitioners and specialists in other branches of medicine than psychiatry."

The interpretation of the word "psychosomatic" is rather broad. Dr. Cobb defines psychosomatic medicine in the Introduction as "that field of clinical medicine in which the psychiatrist and internist can advantageously work together in the study and treatment of disease." One can then appropriately include a case such as the one entitled "The Emotional Significance of Cancer." Similarly, there are cases entitled "Enuresis," "Feeble-mindedness or Pseudoretardation?", "Painful Myostatic Dystonia," and "Impulsive Behavior in a Crippled Boy." One might have preferred a selection of cases more heavily weighted in the direction of asthma, skin diseases, upper and lower gastrointestinal disorders, thyroid disease, coronary disease, hypertension and the peripheral vascular diseases, diseases in which, frequently, the emotions are specifically etiologically implicated.

The cases are all presented succinctly, and in a well organized manner, as given in the hospital staff meeting. A brief description of the staff meeting follows, then a discussion, identifying each speaker, and finally a brief comment. The discussions are obviously verbatim reports of the staff meetings, and the reader is given the immediate impression of several observers after they have heard the case presentation and then seen the patient. The discussions generally are concerned with diagnosis and treatment, with perhaps an unnecessary overemphasis on descriptive diagnosis per se. On the other hand one cannot quarrel with the excellent elaboration by the discussants of the personality dynamics in each case.

Preceding the case presentations is an excellent chapter by Dr. Avery D. Weisman on the "Doctor-Patient Relationship." The general practitioner or internist may learn here just what happens when he refers a patient to the psychiatrist—and he may read it to clarify what happens when he treats patients—psychiatric or otherwise. There is also a preliminary chapter outlining in elaborate detail the neuro-anatomic pathways of the brain probably concerned with emotional reactions. One wonders why this section was included in a collection of cases of psychosomatic disease.

As a whole the book presents a varied and interesting group of well-reported and critically discussed cases, but might have been better titled "Case Histories in Collaborative Psychiatry."